

**AFFINITY SMALL MOLECULES FOR  
THE EPO RECEPTOR**

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

Compounds are provided that complex with the modulating domain of erythropoietin receptor (EPO-R) for use with EPO-R to determine the presence of EPO-R, the ability of other molecules to bind to the modulating domain in competitive assays and to induce a signal by EPO-R into a cell when bound by the subject compounds in a physiological environment. The compounds are characterized by having a six-membered heterocyclic ring comprising at least one nitrogen atom and include substituted triazolopyrimidine, pyridazinone, pyridine and piperidine.